

Bulldog Bulletin

Dates

- May 2-3 Grade 7 field trips to Gillette
- May 6 School Council and CAPT meetings
- May 6 CAPT Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- May 7-8 8th grade MCAS (math)
- May 9 7th grade MCAS (math)
- May 14 7th grade MCAS (math)
- May 15-16 6th grade MCAS (math)
- May 20-23 K-12 Art Exhibit
- May 21-22 8th grade MCAS (science)
- May 23 Revolutionary War Reenactment (12:30pm)
- May 24 Rain date Revolutionary War Reenactment
- May 29 GMS spring concert
- May 31 8th grade Dance @ CHS
- June 3 School Council and CAPT meetings
- June 5 GMS Retirement Party
- June 6 Unity Day and Cultural Heritage Night
- June 10 8th grade Step Up Day to CHS (also rain date for Unity Day)
- June 11-14 DC/NY Trip (8th grade)
- June 18 7th grade P.B.L. Student Presentations
- June 20 8th grade Promotion Ceremony @ CHS
- June 21 Last Day of School (half day)

US Mail Carriers' Food Drive: Saturday, May 11th Put out your food/non perishable donations near your mailbox for them to pick up.



Canton/Dedham Community Problem Solving Teams: Project Prep: www.weatherprep.org Take a survey and send a photo of your emergency preparedness kit to enter for prizes!

“The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child's home.”

William Temple

Follow us on Twitter: @Galvinmiddle

Dear Galvin Families,

It's May and there are only seven weeks of school left. I can't believe it! This is an exciting time of year for us. We are savoring the time we have left with our current eighth grade students while simultaneously welcoming our incoming sixth grade class to GMS. In addition, we are scheduling our current sixth and seventh graders into their classes for next year. You are likely aware that we've begun this process because you recently received your child's math recommendation, confirmed your child's music choices and, if you have a 6th grader, supported their choice of a language for 7th grade. As a part of assigning student to the next grade level, we are also placing students on their next year's team.

Teaming is a foundational tenet of middle school philosophy. According to *This We Believe, from the Association of Middle Level Educators*, middle school teams are "the foundation for a strong learning community characteristic of families. Students and teachers on the team become well acquainted, feel safe, respected and supported, and are encouraged to take intellectual risks." While GMS has had teams in the past, they have not been true teams. In some cases, students may have some teachers on a team and other teachers who are not on a team. Next year we will have true teams in each grade and all students will be on one team. This means that a group of 90 - 120 students will all have the same four or five core teachers (ELA, math, science, social studies and reading). We are very excited about this as it has been a goal of GMS for a few years and it will help us continue to create the culture we envision.

Next year we will have three teams in both sixth and seventh grade and two teams in the eighth grade. Our incoming 6th grade class currently has 289 students, our rising 7th grade has 267 and our rising 8th grade has 222 students. Ideally a team consists of 90 - 120 students. Having these eight teams will allow us to do that. Students will have specials (physical education, art, technology, etc.)

We anticipate many benefits of true teams at GMS: a small community within a larger school, smoother communication between home and school, stronger relationships between teachers and students, a more consistent experience for students across subject areas, and better communication between staff members.

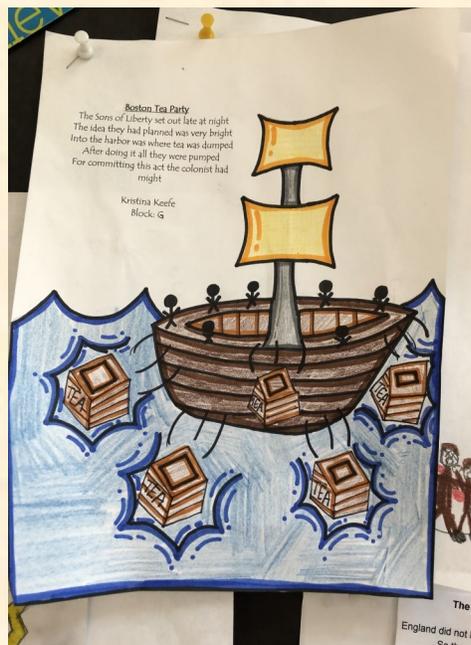
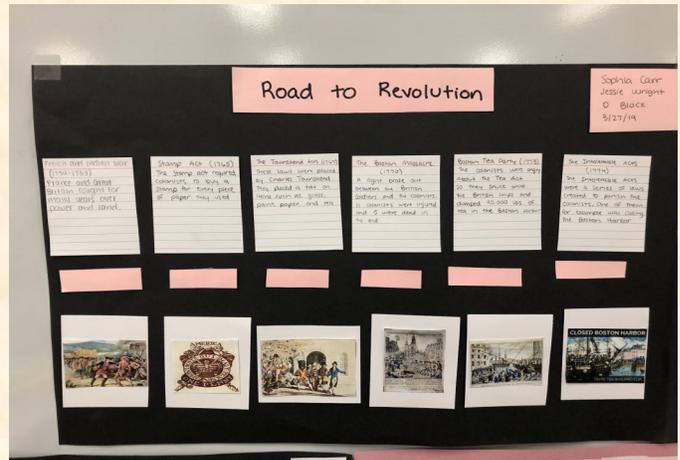
The teaming process is a very thoughtful one. We will be sending a follow up email to all families explaining this process as well as how you can provide input regarding your child's placement next year.

Warmly,
Sarah Shannon

Grade 8

History

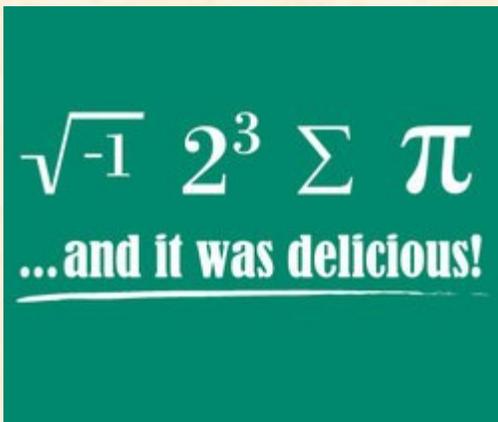
The main focus in Social Studies for the end of the year in grade 8 is the American Revolution. We take a look at the actions, interactions, and deteriorating relationship between American Colonists and Great Britain. Once we've set the stage for why both sides grow so loathsome of one and other, we take a look at the events of the Revolutionary War. Springtime is an excellent moment to study these events, as many of them occurred in the same moment, two hundred and fifty years ago. This unit also coincides nicely with the celebration of Memorial Day. As students learn about the events of the war that gave birth to this nation, they also learn to reflect on the sacrifices that have been made during it and others like it throughout our history. Students get to demonstrate their creativity and knowledge through various artistic assignments such as writing a Limerick about the Road to Revolution and even creating a timeline poster in the fashion of a literal road that depicts the grievances of both sides.



Grade 8

Math

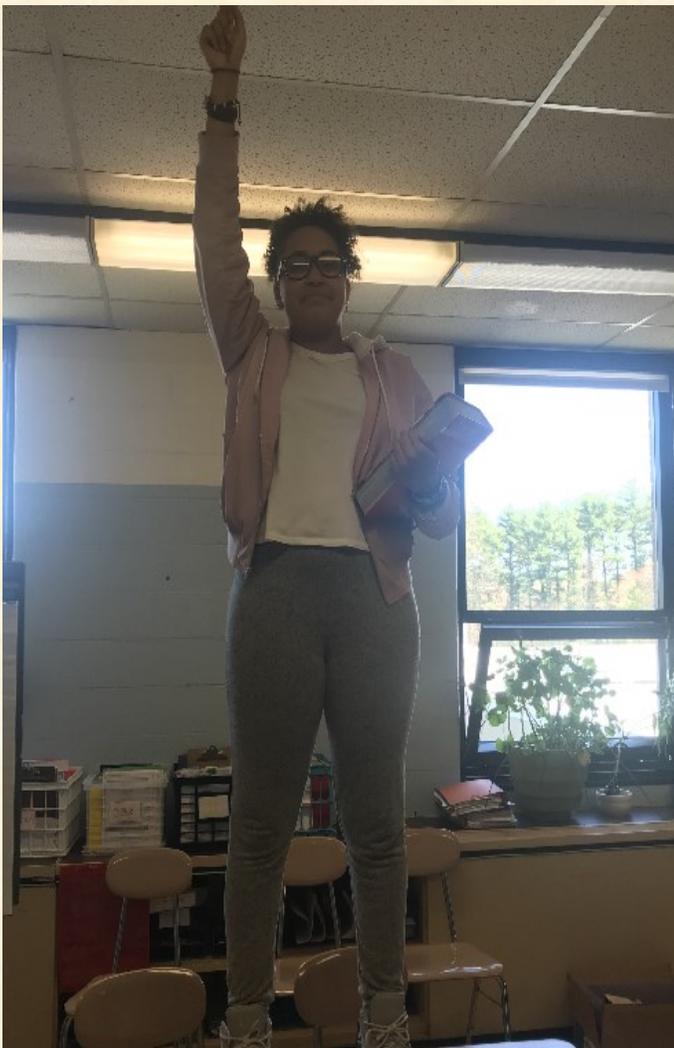
The 8th graders are preparing for the Math MCAS, which will begin with Session 1 on May 7th and end with Session 2 on May 8th. The 8th grade math teachers are preparing the students by reviewing the 8th grade curriculum and using online MCAS practice tutorials. For the remainder of the school year, Pre-Algebra students will be studying Volume and Surface Area of cylinders, cones, and spheres. Algebra students will finish off the year studying Quadratic and Exponential Functions. Finally, both Pre-Algebra and Algebra students will be preparing for the math finals that will take place on June 5th and 6th.



Grade 8

English

In English class, the 8th grade students are reading poetry. One poem that was enjoyable to read in class was "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus. The poem compares the Colossus of Rhodes to the Statue of Liberty. The final lines of the poem, "Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me/ I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" can be found engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty. In class, the students pretended to be the two very different statues. The students also enjoyed discussing the meaning of the poem and its relevance today.



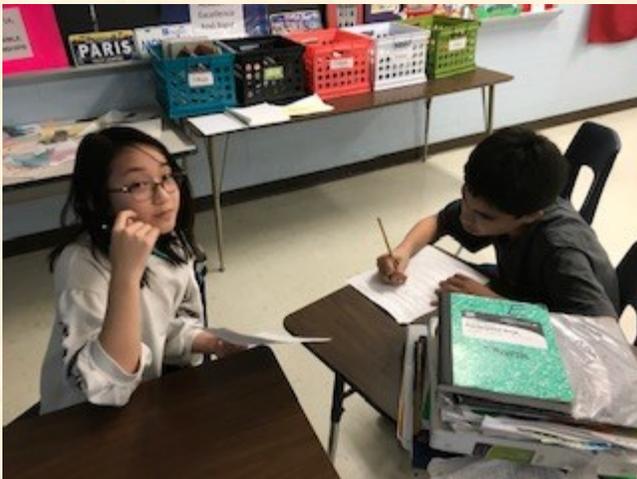
World Language



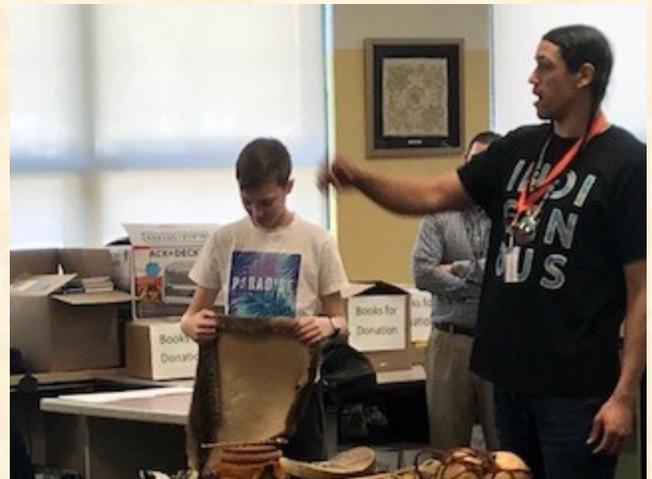
8th grade French student Olivia Schnock works in French class on an original piece of art inspired by Henri Matisse's French style.



French students made crepes in Mr. Snipe's room after school during World Language week.



French and Spanish students participated in a language swap day, where French students learned Spanish and Spanish students learned French for a class period during World Language Week.



French student James Gibbs holds up an artifact from a table during a presentation on Native American cultures.

World Languages Week

Grade 8 had some fun participating in World Languages Week. Señora Moore's and Señora Bajramovic's classes explored some "Traveling Suitcases" and found some games, books, and other artifacts from Latin America. They also made some "luminarias" and swapped Spanish classes with French.

Monsieur Snipe's French students recreated French impressionist paintings and shared wonderful country presentations done by both parents and students, including Lebanon, Germany, the Azores and Kenya. It was so nice of parents to spend the time and talk to the students!

All classes enjoyed a UNICEF presentation, a dance presentation with drums and African rhythms with the Bimedele Dancers, and a Native American presentation. Students read the daily announcements in Spanish and French and played with some trivia contests. After school, Spanish students celebrated with a Taco Party, and French students cooked crepes (French dessert pancakes). What a great week!

National Spanish and French Exams

Grade 8 students participated in the National Spanish and French Exams and received awards. The National Spanish Exam is a voluntary online standardized assessment for Spanish students in grades 6-12 given in the United States. It tests listening, reading, and writing. It is used to measure performance and achievement of students studying Spanish. It is the most widely used test of Spanish in the U.S.

The National French Exam, otherwise known as *Le Grand Concours*, is also a voluntary online exam given to French students in grades 1-6 for FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School) and secondary students in grades 7-12 in the U.S. It is also given to students abroad. This test includes an assessment of listening reading, and writing skills, and the AATF (American Association of Teachers of French) sponsors this test.

The following **Spanish students** received awards:

Gold Medal - Liya Joseph

Silver Medal - Sierra Abbott, Akshay Kumar, Allison Long, Anh Ngo

Bronze Medal - Olivia Maffeo

Honor Certificate - Charlotte Davis, Bridget Feeney, Audrey Koen, Maxwell LaRose, Kitana Le-Garcia, Jorge Nebril, Luke Toland, Kelli Woodworth

The following **French students** received awards:

Silver Medal - Jad Antoun, Emily Kelley

Bronze Medal - Olivia Durham, Jack Flaherty, Leo MacMullen, Emma Massih

Honorable Mention - Abby Chin, Lucia Curran-Barker, Erika Duffin, Molly Dwoske, Han Hong, Max Leonov, Olivia Mackwell, Eileen McKay, Iva Morozova, Roland Quinn, Josh Richards, Olivia Schnock, Cameron Sui

Congratulations from Señora Bajramovic, Señora Moore, and Monsieur Snipe!

Basketball Game

Basketball Game



Grade 8 Dance

Grade 8 Dance

Our annual grade 8 dance will be on Friday, May 31, from 7 - 10 pm in the Canton High School cafeteria. This dance is for grade 8 students from the Galvin. The cost of the dance is \$5 per student and money can be paid on-line through MySchoolBucks starting Monday, May 20, through Thursday, May 30th. More information to follow as the dance approaches.

